

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 04136 281631Z

62

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TAGS: PFOR, NATO, GR, TU

SUBJECT: PRESS TREATMENT OF ANDROUTSOPOULOS/ECEVIT VARIANCE AT
NATO SUMMIT

REF: ATHENS 4085

1. BILATERAL MEETING OF GREEK AND TURKISH PREMIERS JUNE 26 AT
BRUSSELS CONTINUED TO RECEIVE PROMINENT COVERAGE IN ATHENS NEWS-
PAPERS FOR SECOND DAY RUNNING. REPORTING OF ECEVIT'S DEPARTURE
STATEMENT TO JOURNALISTS AND VIEWS OF GREEK "OBSERVERS" RE
MEETING ADHERED CLOSELY TO COVERAGE BY ATHENS NEWS AGENCY, GOG'S
OFFICIAL NEWS SERVICE.

2. PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT AT AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE IS QUOTED AS
SAYING HE SUBMITTED WRITTEN PROPOSALS TO GREEK SIDE SUGGESTING
FORMATION OF A COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF TWO
COUNTRIES WITH TWO SUBCOMMITTEES. ACCORDING TO TURKISH PM ONE
SUBCOMMITTEE WOULD DEAL WITH MATTERS RELATING TO MINORITIES IN
TWO COUNTRIES AND OTHER WITH ALL PROBLEMS CONCERNING THE AEGEAN
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PAGE 02 ATHENS 04136 281631Z

SEA. UNDER TURKISH PROPOSAL TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS SHOULD MEET AT

REGULAR INTERVALS AND SUBMIT SOLUTIONS OF MATTERS TO PRIME MINISTERS. ECEVIT REPORTEDLY SAID GREEK PM AND FM DID NOT ACCEPT TURKISH PROPOSALS SAYING THAT MATTERS SHOULD BE HANDLED THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS AS PREVIOUSLY. ECEVIT ADDED, ACCORDING TO ANA, THAT IN REPLY TO GREEK REMARKS MADE AT MEETING, HE SAID MACHINERY PROPOSED WAS CONSISTENT WITH INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE AND HE POINTED OUT THAT OTTAWA DECLARATION SPOKE OF "NEGOTIATIONS AND DELIBERATIONS." (SIC) TURKISH PM REPORTEDLY CONCLUDED THAT TURKISH SIDE "WOULD SEEK OTHER MEANS TO A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT SINCE GREECE HAD SHOWN NO RESPONSE TO THE TURKISH PROPOSALS. TURKEY...WOULD CONTINUE WITHOUT GIVING UP HOPE THAT ITS PROPOSALS WOULD BE RECONSIDERED." IN REPLY TO QUERY, ECEVIT CHARACTERIZED DISPUTE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AS "STUPID". "IN ANY CASE, WE SHALL NOT FOLLOW AN AGGRESSIVE POLICY, WHETHER IN A MILITARY SENSE OR NOT."

3. ANA UNDER RUBRIC OF "ACCORDING TO DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES AND OBSERVERS" REPORTED THAT GREEK SIDE SUPPORTED PRINCIPLE THAT EXISTING PROCEDURE OF SETTLING MATTERS THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNEL WAS THE ONLY WAY WHICH COULD BE APPLIED UNDER PREVAILING INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE. ACCORDING TO ANA "ACCEPTANCE OF TURKISH PROPOSALS, WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF WHICH ALL OUTSTANDING MATTERS WOULD BE INCLUDED, ESPECIALLY THE QUESTIONS OF MINORITIES AND OF THE AEGEAN, WOULD NOT ONLY BE TANTAMOUNT--ACCORDING TO OBSERVERS--TO CASTING ASIDE CUSTOMARY DIPLOMATIC PROCEDURE BUT WOULD LEAD TO THE IGNORING OF TREATY OBLIGATIONS WHICH GOVERN BOTH MATTERS IN QUESTION AND CAUSE CONFUSION AND UNCERTAINTY INSTEAD OF SETTLEMENT WHICH IS SOUGHT." ANA ADDED THAT THE GREEK SIDE COUNTER-PROPOSED DISCUSSION OF MATTERS THROUGH THE USUAL DIPLOMATIC METHOD AND THUS ECEVIT'S CLAIM THAT GREECE WAS OPPOSED TO THE INTERNATIONALLY PREVAILING SYSTEM WAS INACCURATE.

4. COMMENT: POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE GENERATED DURING GREEK/TURKISH BILATERAL TALKS IN OTTAWA HAS BEGUN TO DISSIPATE WITH PRESS REPORTS OF RESPECTIVE PREMIERS' INABILITY TO AGREE ON PROCEDURES FOR DISCUSSING MUTUAL PROBLEMS.
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